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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	Case No. 25 CR 321-4
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
SUHAIB AHMAD CHAUDHRY,)	Chicago, Illinois
)	July 8, 2025
Defendant.)	11:07 A.M.
)	

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - Arraignment and Detention
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DANIEL P. McLAUGHLIN, Magistrate Judge

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: HON. ANDREW S. BOUTROS
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604
BY: MS. SHERI MECKLENBURG

For the Defendant: CLARK HILL PLC
130 East Randolph Street
Suite 3900
Chicago, Illinois 60601
BY: MR. LEIGH D. ROADMAN
MR. MASON N. FLOYD

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Danaysy Diaz
Pretrial Service Officer

PAMELA S. WARREN, CSR, RPR
Official Court Reporter - Retired
23869 N. High Ridge Drive
Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047
312.823.0001

NOTE: Please notify of correct speaker identification.

1 (Proceedings held in open court:)

2 THE CLERK: 25 CR 321, United States versus Suhaib
3 Ahmad Chaudhry.

4 Your Honor, I don't see --

5 MS. MECKLENBURG: Sheri Mecklenburg on behalf of the
6 United States. And I don't see -- oh, I'm sorry. Okay.

7 THE COURT: He's entering the courtroom.

8 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

9 THE COURT: Nice to see you, Ms. Mecklenburg.

10 MS. MECKLENBURG: You too.

11 MR. ROADMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Leigh Roadman
12 and Mason Floyd on behalf of Suhaib Chaudhry, who is here with
13 us in court.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Good morning to you both.

15 Good morning, Mr. Chaudhry.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Oh, and pretrial services is here.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. DIAZ: Good morning, your Honor. Danaysy Diaz for
20 pretrial services.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Nice to see you, Officer Diaz.

22 Okay. So we are here for an arraignment, and then
23 we're here to talk about conditions of release; is that
24 correct?

25 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes, your Honor.

1 MR. ROADMAN: Yes, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And my understanding is that
3 Mr. Chaudhry had his initial appearance down in Texas; is that
4 right?

5 MR. ROADMAN: He did.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So that makes things a little
7 simpler for today. And so what we'll do first is the
8 arraignment.

9 And I -- I'm not going to do a full initial appearance
10 sort of thing where I give you all your rights, sir, because
11 your rights -- you were informed of your rights, I assume, when
12 you were down in court in Texas, okay?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. And if you could keep your voice up
15 please, that's helpful. Thank you.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: So Ms. Mecklenburg, can you briefly
18 summarize the charge against Mr. Chaudhry and the maximum
19 possible penalty if he was convicted of that charge?

20 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes, your Honor. Mr. Chaudhry is
21 charged in Count Nineteen with money laundering conspiracy
22 under 18 USC Section 1956(h). That violation carries a penalty
23 of up to 20 years's imprisonment with a supervised release of
24 up to three years and also a financial penalty of up to
25 \$500,000 or twice the value of the monetary instruments

1 involved, which at this time our information the value was
2 approximately 6.3 million.

3 THE COURT: Okay. So Mr. Chaudhry, I'm just asking
4 you did you -- if you heard what Ms. Mecklenburg said, do you
5 understand the potential penalties that may apply?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Great. Thank you.

8 And counsel, have you received a copy of the
9 indictment?

10 MR. ROADMAN: We have, Judge. We had an opportunity
11 to review it with Mr. Chaudhry. And we'll acknowledge the
12 receipt, waive a formal reading, and enter a plea of not guilty
13 for him to Count Nineteen, which is the only count he's charged
14 in.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Great. Thank you.

16 So a plea of not guilty will be entered on Count
17 Nineteen, which as counsel mentioned is the only count against
18 Mr. Chaudhry.

19 Okay. So let's talk about conditions of release. And
20 so my view of this, and this is not -- I have seen a couple of
21 defendants now in this case, so I have a little bit more
22 familiarity with it now than I did perhaps last week.

23 The conditions that were put in place down in Texas --
24 and this won't be a surprise to Ms. Mecklenburg -- some of them
25 just don't make a whole lot of sense to me literally. I don't

1 know what some of them even mean. And every -- every district
2 has its own custom and practice. I'm not throwing any shade at
3 them. I just -- I don't know why they say things the way they
4 say.

5 So where I fall here is pretrial services in this
6 district issued its own report which recommends certain
7 conditions of release that are considerably fewer than those
8 that were put in place down in Texas.

9 I saw your filings last night, each side. And so I
10 guess -- and I'll certainly hear argument, if you would like to
11 argue, but I'm -- my view of this is that Mr. Chaudhry is --
12 you know, the sort of sticking points for me are he doesn't
13 appear to have a lot of ties to the community down in Texas.

14 And Mr. Chaudhry, just to be clear, you're going to be
15 released. I'm not considering detaining you. And I know that
16 the government filed something last night and it -- a label
17 applied to it at the time of filing that actually I saw when I
18 was at home and I thought, oh, my gosh, they're moving for
19 detention, that doesn't make any sense.

20 MS. MECKLENBURG: I'm not seeking detention, your
21 Honor.

22 THE COURT: So you're going to be released, sir. I'm
23 just trying to figure out what the conditions are going to be.
24 And so let me take the air out of the balloon in terms of
25 anxiety if you are worried about that.

1 The concerns I have in terms of fashioning those
2 conditions, Mr. Chaudhry, are that you don't have, what appears
3 in the reports, to be local family. It sounds like you live by
4 yourself. And there is nothing wrong with those things
5 certainly, but those are things that the bond statute asks the
6 Court and requires the Court to take into consideration under
7 sort of the label of ties to the community and in terms of your
8 personnel characteristics.

9 And so -- and then the additional issue that I was
10 thinking about as I was thinking about this case is -- and I
11 know, it goes back some way and is just that you were
12 apparently present on a private jet that was scheduled to
13 depart and leave the country. I know that was some time ago.
14 I know that it was long before the charges were filed in this
15 case. But that does give me some pause in terms of considering
16 what we ought to do and what we should to in order to be
17 reasonably certain that you're going to appear in court when
18 you're required to appear in court.

19 And so I don't think that the conditions that have
20 been recommended by pretrial services here in the Northern
21 District of Illinois are enough. I think there needs to be
22 more there.

23 And so, you know, my -- my sense of this is that I'll
24 certainly impose the conditions that the local pretrial
25 services required -- or recommended, rather, but then I'm going

1 to require some additional conditions as well.

2 And so I'll hear argument. And Ms. Mecklenburg -- I
3 just want to tell you all that just to give you a sense of
4 where my head is at on this.

5 And so Ms. Mecklenburg, you know, I know you were here
6 last week. The financial conditions -- and maybe that's not
7 even the best label -- with respect to bank statements, credit
8 check, the -- I saw that thing again about the federally -- I
9 don't even remember what the phrase was. I'm not going to
10 impose those conditions.

11 MS. MECKLENBURG: And I'm not asking to, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Great.

13 So in terms of additional conditions that you believe
14 are essential, could you -- if you want to briefly argue those,
15 I'll hear from you now.

16 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes, your Honor. Clearly you
17 understand what my concerns are. And I don't really know how
18 we can address them short of I need some security that
19 Mr. Chaudhry is not going to flee. Either some sort of
20 custodian or -- and/or property. But I have been told that he
21 cannot do either. Or to continue with the electronic
22 monitoring.

23 Houston has said they're going to do the pretrial
24 supervision and Houston is willing to do the electronic
25 monitoring.

1 THE COURT: Okay. All right. And then defense
2 counsel, do you all want to weigh in on that?

3 MR. ROADMAN: Sure. I mean, Judge, what seems to be
4 driving the bus on this thing of him being a flight risk is
5 this incident related to the airplane. In May of 2024, he was,
6 at the time, working for Anosh, Inc. It was an overseas
7 business trip which was scheduled. It was going to be a stop
8 in Dubai and then onto London where they were negotiating over
9 various businesses that were going to be opened up and getting
10 real estate and things like that.

11 The private plane was -- was Mr. Anosh Ahmed had
12 leased that. His father was on that, who at the time was in
13 very poor health, and that was the reason they had the private
14 plane.

15 This plane also had Heather Bergdahl (phonetic) on it,
16 who was arrested and pulled off the plane, and Mr. Chaudhry
17 because they were going on the business trip together.

18 The plane had pulled out. It was on the tarmac, as I
19 understand it. Agents came out, boarded the plane, took
20 Ms. Bergdahl off. Mr. Chaudhry -- there was no arrest warrant
21 out for Mr. Chaudhry, anything like that. He voluntarily got
22 off and stayed in the United States.

23 The plane took off with the family members and went
24 over to Dubai as it was scheduled to do.

25 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

1 MR. ROADMAN: Yes, everybody says, well, there is a
2 private plane involved. He could take off at any point in
3 time.

4 The best evidence that he's not going to do it is he
5 could have done it then and he didn't. I mean, this
6 investigation had -- he had been aware of it for well over a
7 year at the time. We have responded to multiple, multiple,
8 multiple subpoenas by producing probably about 50,000
9 documents. We have been over. We have talked with the
10 prosecutor about the case. He had not gone in and proffered
11 because our discussions did not lead to where we, as defense
12 counsel, felt that that was in his best interests to do that.

13 But this was not a case that he was not aware of. He
14 was aware of what was involved, extensive documents, all the
15 allegations that were being made, all that.

16 He didn't take off. He could have. He didn't take
17 off that day; he didn't take off later.

18 In December of that year, he was stopped on a traffic
19 stop, and FBI agents came up, served another warrant, took his
20 phone away. Again, if he wanted to take off or he was really
21 worried about facing, you know, a day in court someday, he
22 could have taken off then. He didn't.

23 He was at his house. He got arrested. He's come
24 voluntarily here.

25 You're -- they are correct in that he doesn't have

1 family members in Houston. He's lived there his entire life.
2 He has always been gainfully employed. He has no criminal
3 record, all the things that you would expect of somebody who
4 has never been involved with the criminal justice system at
5 all.

6 He's turned in his Pakistani Passport, which they
7 found. His U.S. Passport they could not find. We filled a
8 form out at the -- at the suggestion of the U.S. Attorney's
9 Office that we fill out a form reporting it as stolen to the
10 Department of State, and that has been filed. They have got
11 the copies of it. He no longer has a passport.

12 So while I get the idea of electronic monitoring, I
13 mean, you know -- he's doing what he has always been doing.
14 He's been in Houston working. Now he can't work for Anosh. He
15 is going to have to get a new -- wearing an ankle bracelet is
16 not exactly, you know, great when you're going and trying to
17 find a job.

18 And whether he's able to find a job in the Houston
19 area or whether he has to go somewhere else to do it or whether
20 he has to travel, I just don't see him as a flight risk. He
21 had every opportunity to take off if he wanted to, and he never
22 has.

23 THE COURT: Let me ask you this, Mr. Roadman. So I
24 noted in the government's filing last night that there was some
25 suggestion that he had gone -- Mr. Chaudhry had said goodbye to

1 people or something like that or made some statement to the
2 effect of he didn't know when he was coming back or something
3 like that. And I -- I wasn't sure -- you know, I don't know
4 the investigation and I don't know if you do at this point
5 either. I don't know where you are with the discovery and
6 whatnot. And I know it is early days. But do you have any
7 knowledge of that? Do you have any understanding of that?

8 MR. ROADMAN: I believe he did say goodbye to people.
9 But let's put it in context. This was a -- going to be a
10 multi-month business trip with coming back, okay? As they were
11 planning this business trip, there were people where he said,
12 I'm going on this business trip, I'm going to be gone, goodbye.
13 I say goodbye to my wife every morning, right?

14 You know, so I mean, it is like, it doesn't mean when
15 you say "goodbye" I'm never coming back again. That's their
16 view of it. I don't. There was one, we believe, cooperating
17 witness who seemed to have been doing a lot of prompting of
18 trying to get people to say, oh, we're never coming back. That
19 wasn't what this was about.

20 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Mecklenburg, do you have any
21 response to anything?

22 MS. MECKLENBURG: I do, your Honor. Keep in mind that
23 Ms. Bergdahl had put all of her belongings in storage before
24 this trip, said goodbye to her parents, and gave them her cat.
25 And they said this was unusual.

1 So it was not just a simple business trip. I think
2 that is trivializing it a little bit.

3 And that Mr. Chaudhry had told people that he did not
4 know when he would be back. That's different than a standard
5 business trip.

6 The other issues that I have here is that his
7 employment is going to have to change. And while they say
8 that -- while Mr. Roadman points out that Mr. Chaudhry has no
9 criminal history, he has been involved in this criminal
10 enterprise and scheme since 2021. Going along with it, this
11 was what they were doing was this scheme to seek claims -- to
12 put in claims for fake COVID testing. And he wasn't
13 just -- even though he's charged in the one count, he worked
14 with them on this.

15 So this is his involvement for the past four years.
16 Anybody would have known this is something -- this is fraud, I
17 shouldn't be doing this, I have got to get out. The fact that
18 he has done this for four years makes me concerned over his
19 moral compass.

20 And it is true that he did get off the plane when he
21 did not have to. But at that time, keep in mind, that he was
22 not charged. This time -- this investigation took longer than,
23 at least I had hoped, because of a lack of resources in many
24 ways. So I think that takes some -- comfort to people that
25 they weren't going to be charged.

1 And what this shows is the vast resources he has
2 access to through on that. It shows immense interest in having
3 this defendant in the UAE with him. And it shows how easily
4 and quickly he not only can leave if he wants, but that he's
5 willing to. Because if somebody said to you, why don't you
6 come over here for months and months and months with no return
7 flight, that would be a problem for most people who make their
8 home here and consider this to be the place where they're going
9 to be.

10 So without any ties in the community, with employment
11 right now being iffy, and with his history of a long-term
12 involvement with Anosh Ahmed and his wrongdoing, I believe that
13 we should have some extra measures to make sure that he does
14 not flee.

15 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So here's what I am
16 going to do. I'm going to issue -- I'm going to go over with
17 you all briefly the conditions of release that I am
18 anticipating putting in place, because I may need some help
19 from you to make sure that they are fine tuned.

20 And so, Mr. Chaudhry, I want you to listen because
21 many of these will apply to you certainly, and some we're going
22 to flesh out a little bit here. Okay?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So Mr. Chaudhry must submit to
25 supervision of pretrial services. And the pretrial services

1 office in the Southern District of Texas will be the one that's
2 supervising him on a day-to-day basis as a courtesy.

3 Sir, you're going to have to continue to work or to
4 actively seek employment. I know you have already surrendered
5 your Pakistani Passport and you have filled out paperwork with
6 respect to your U.S. Passport.

7 What I would say, sir, is that if you find any sort of
8 travel document, you know, as you're cleaning out your basement
9 or whatever it is you're doing, you need to turn those in
10 immediately. Okay? And you're absolutely forbidden from
11 obtaining a new passport or international travel document.

12 Do you understand that, sir?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm just going to write on here,
15 even though it has already been done, I'm going to emphasize
16 surrender any passport to pretrial services.

17 I'm just going to make a note that the Pakistani
18 Passport has been surrendered. U.S. Passport is purportedly
19 stolen or lost. Report -- I'll have to say lost.

20 MR. ROADMAN: Judge, we -- that form has already been
21 provided --

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MR. ROADMAN: -- to the U.S. Attorney's Office and to
24 Ms. Mecklenburg back on June 18th.

25 THE COURT: Okay.

1 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes, your Honor.

2 MR. ROADMAN: Well, we reported it as -- to the
3 Department of State as stolen.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. ROADMAN: Or missing, I guess, is the best way to
6 put it.

7 THE COURT: I'll change lost to missing. I think
8 that's a better word. I agree.

9 Okay. Travel restrictions, sir, you are going to be
10 limited in your travel in the United States. You're not to
11 leave the country. Obviously you can't, you don't have a
12 passport.

13 And then with respect to Condition 7G as in George,
14 this is where we get into the contact and who you can have
15 contact with and who you cannot.

16 And is there an attachment for that?

17 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes. But before you move on, your
18 Honor, travel restrictions, I think it is too broad, frankly.
19 And I think he should at least be restricted to the Southern
20 District of Texas and the Northern District of Illinois.

21 But if you're going to give him travel in the United
22 States, then at least make it the Continental United States.

23 THE COURT: No Hawaii?

24 MS. MECKLENBURG: Because if he gets on a plane and
25 goes somewhere like Hawaii or Alaska, it is harder for us to

1 even know when -- where he is and when he's coming back.

2 MR. ROADMAN: We're fine with Continental United
3 States, Judge.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Is that -- do you think that's
5 true?

6 MS. MECKLENBURG: I do.

7 THE COURT: If he goes to Hawaii or Alaska it is
8 harder to know where he is than if he is in Kansas City?

9 MS. MECKLENBURG: I haven't had anybody flee during
10 bond so I don't -- I'm not an expert on it.

11 THE COURT: All right. Well, let's keep that hot
12 streak going. I -- I am -- we'll make it Continental United
13 States with the agreement of defense counsel.

14 All right. So now we're at 7G, which is the contact,
15 direct contact. And these are the folks that you're not
16 permitted to have any contact with. And there is going to be
17 an -- an attachment, right, with the names.

18 Is that correct, Ms. Mecklenburg?

19 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes. And in fact I have already
20 provided it to counsel.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. And so do you have that in
22 front of you, sir, or have you had a chance to review that
23 attachment?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Do you have any question about any of the

1 names on there or who those folks are or whether you can have
2 any contact with them?

3 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MS. MECKLENBURG: And, your Honor, they might be
6 looking at the attachment that's from the Houston court. But I
7 have given them an updated attachment.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. ROADMAN: If --

10 MS. MECKLENBURG: So it is --

11 MR. ROADMAN: If I could step over and --

12 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Yeah. Why don't you confer and make sure
14 you're talking about the same attachment.

15 (Discussion off the record.)

16 MS. MECKLENBURG: They have the updated attachment,
17 your Honor.

18 (Brief interruption.)

19 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay. It looks like they have the
20 updated list, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. Great.

22 MS. MECKLENBURG: Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 Okay. You're not to possess a firearm, destructive
25 device, or any other weapon.

1 Do you understand that, sir?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Pretrial here did not indicate any
4 need for drug testing. I don't see any need for that based on
5 the information that's in front of me.

6 Does anyone disagree with that?

7 MS. MECKLENBURG: The government is fine with that,
8 your Honor. We have no evidence that that's needed.

9 THE COURT: Okay. And so here's where I come down on
10 the issue of flight and what to do about electronic monitoring.
11 I agree with much of what defense counsel says in terms of this
12 has been out there for some time. And the best evidence that
13 Mr. Chaudhry is not going to flee is the fact that he's
14 continued to stay in the country even though he has had at
15 least historical opportunities to leave.

16 At the same time I am concerned about the lack of, I
17 won't say connections in the community because I -- I think he
18 likely has some connections through employment and things like
19 that -- but the lack of family ties, the fact that he lives
20 alone, the fact that there was -- you know, I -- even if I
21 accept defendant's view of the flight in 2024, I think the fact
22 that he has access to that is concerning from a flight
23 perspective.

24 So I'm going to require that there be some conditions
25 put in place at 7P as in Patrick.

1 So you're going to be required -- you're going to be
2 on a curfew, and you're going to be on curfew with electronic
3 monitoring. And so you're going to be restricted -- well, let
4 me think about this.

5 Actually I'm going to make it home detention because
6 that allows him movement for work. And then if he has to
7 travel for work, we don't have to get into whether he's home
8 during the curfew time.

9 So it is going to be home detention. Which means, sir
10 that you're going to be able to work; to attend courses, if you
11 are taking courses; religious services; medical appointments,
12 if you have them; attorney visits; court appearances.
13 Basically anything structured that you need to attend to in
14 your life, you're going to have the ability to do those things.
15 But when you're not doing those things, you're going to need to
16 be home, sir.

17 And in terms of the actual technology that's used,
18 Ms. Mecklenburg -- I'm looking at 7Q. Ms. Mecklenburg, do you
19 have a sense from -- I know that -- I think if I understand
20 correctly, down in the Southern District of Texas they use
21 actual location monitoring technology; is that right?

22 MS. MECKLENBURG: That's my understanding.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Let me just look real quick at what
24 they impose.

25 And Officer Diaz, do you have any information on that?

1 MS. DIAZ: I am not sure what Texas uses, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. DIAZ: Usually when location monitoring is
4 imposed, we like to leave it up to pretrial services to
5 determine the frequency -- I don't know the wording. It is on
6 the second page. I -- if I can take a look at it. It is
7 usually to be determined by pretrial services.

8 THE COURT: In terms of the actual technology that's
9 used?

10 MS. DIAZ: Correct.

11 MR. ROADMAN: Judge, I have a copy of the Texas order.
12 And what they checked on Q was standalone monitoring and GPS.
13 So they use the GPS technology.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm going to check GPS and --
15 just to keep it consistent, and then I'm going to put in
16 parentheses, at the discretion of pretrial services.

17 Is that agreeable to the government?

18 MS. MECKLENBURG: That is, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MS. MECKLENBURG: When you say at the discretion, you
21 mean the type of technology, but not the location monitoring
22 necessarily?

23 THE COURT: Correct. I'll say at the discretion of
24 pretrial services to determine the type of technology to use.

25 MS. DIAZ: Your Honor?

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MS. DIAZ: With respect to the Court and the condition
3 imposed, the location monitoring, I just wanted to put it on
4 the record that pretrial does object to the location monitoring
5 condition. Pretrial services has not utilized location
6 monitoring to mitigate risk of nonappearance. It is used to
7 mitigate the risk of danger to the community.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. DIAZ: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And then 7S as in Sam.

11 Mr. Chaudhry, you're going to need to report to pretrial
12 services any contact with law enforcement. And that would
13 include anything like a traffic stop. I know you have had a
14 traffic stop in the past.

15 You know, if -- any time that a police officer stops
16 you, asks for your identification, that information gets logged
17 into a database. And your pretrial services officer is going
18 to get reports about that. And if they learn from that report
19 that you have had contact with law enforcement but they haven't
20 heard it from you first, it can cause some problems, okay? And
21 so that's going to be a condition that I put in place.

22 Ms. Mecklenburg, are there additional conditions that
23 the government is seeking?

24 MS. MECKLENBURG: No. But I would like to go back to
25 the travel restriction or lack of travel restriction. How will

1 that work? If he is allowed to go throughout the United
2 States, how will that work with home detention?

3 It seems to me that he should be restricted to his
4 district and our district. And then if he has to travel out of
5 the district for a reason, such as an employment or a family
6 event or something, then he should get pretrial services's
7 approval.

8 THE COURT: So if he is limited to home detention, I'm
9 leaving Continental -- and let's say he has got a job in
10 the -- he has got to travel to out of town for two days or
11 something like that, he's going to be able to do that with the
12 conditions that are in place here without having to come to
13 court and get a court order to do that.

14 And so I don't see any inconsistency there. I
15 understand your point. But it leaves open the possibility that
16 if he is working; if he has got to travel; if he wants to go do
17 a job interview in a different city, since he's got to find a
18 new job now; he's going to be able to do that based on the
19 order that's entered here today instead of having to come back
20 and modify the conditions with motion practice.

21 MS. MECKLENBURG: And I'm not looking for him to have
22 to modify it, but to have to at least ask pretrial services so
23 that they know where he is. Because otherwise he's not going
24 to be on home detention, and they are not going to know why.
25 If he is just going somewhere else, pretrial is going to have

1 no idea why he is not on home detention.

2 THE COURT: Well, no. He can't go somewhere else
3 unless it is for one of the purposes that are listed under home
4 detention. He can't leave the house unless those are the
5 things that he's out for.

6 MS. MECKLENBURG: So the order is that he's on home
7 detention, and then for these purposes only he can travel the
8 United States?

9 THE COURT: Yeah. I mean, he -- the only purposes for
10 which he can get out of the house are the purposes that are
11 listed in P2. So that would be work, education, or religious
12 services, medical appointments, substance abuse, et cetera,
13 court appearances, court-ordered obligations. And so if and
14 when those things come up and they require travel in the
15 Continental United States, he can do it on this order.

16 He doesn't have the free ability to just travel around
17 the country --

18 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

19 THE COURT: -- at --

20 MS. MECKLENBURG: Then I would ask that we include
21 language under F that his travel is subject to 7P2 to make that
22 clear. Because if I didn't understand it, then I am concerned
23 that pretrial services in Houston won't. I'm concerned that --

24 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

25 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

1 THE COURT: So an internal reference to 7P2?

2 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes.

3 THE COURT: That's fair. Okay.

4 MS. DIAZ: Your Honor, and just to clear things up,
5 even though it is listed that he can travel, he would still
6 need preapproval from pretrial services to leave the house.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MS. DIAZ: So even though it is listed that he can
9 travel, like to the Continental U.S., he just can't leave. He
10 still needs to ask pretrial service -- he still needs approval
11 from pretrial service --

12 THE COURT: Right. And my --

13 MS. DIAZ: -- to be able to leave the house.

14 THE COURT: And so, just to be perfectly clear, the
15 point in doing this the way I'm doing it is so that he
16 doesn't -- let's say he gets a job interview in -- I used
17 Kansas City earlier -- Kansas City. He doesn't need to go to
18 court to get a court order to leave the Southern District of
19 Texas to go to Kansas City for work, which is what would happen
20 if we limited his travel to the Southern District of Texas and
21 the Northern District of Illinois.

22 And so I want to leave him some ability to find this
23 new job, because he has to find a new job. And if there are
24 things that come up that require him to travel for work, he can
25 do that.

1 So I understand the concern. We have got a cross
2 reference now. I think we have got belt and suspenders. We're
3 all on the same page.

4 Do you have any questions about any of this,
5 Mr. Chaudhry?

6 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Counsel?

8 MR. ROADMAN: Your Honor, I mean, we (unintelligible)
9 down the road of where you're going on this. But, you know,
10 this is a condition of home detention, which is actually more
11 restrictive than what pretrial services, you know, recommended
12 down in Houston, pretrial services recommended up here, and
13 that the Court imposed in Houston.

14 I mean, the practical reality of criminal cases in the
15 Northern District of Illinois is from the time of indictment to
16 the time of actually a resolution can be years. And that means
17 he's going to be on home detention for absolutely years.

18 If we have got him on electronic monitoring with GPS
19 technology, seems awfully restrictive to not be able to go out
20 and not -- he says, I want to go out and take a run. I want to
21 go run to the grocery store. I need to go to the dry cleaner.
22 And he's not going to be allowed to do any of that stuff for
23 quite an experience -- a period of time under home detention.

24 And I think we have already got this covered just
25 under standalone monitoring with GPS. If he -- if he takes

1 a -- tries to take off, they're going to know right away
2 because of the GPS.

3 THE COURT: Ms. Mecklenburg, do you have anything to
4 say to that?

5 MS. MECKLENBURG: No, your Honor. I think that
6 what -- your original conditions were appropriate. I think
7 what Mr. Roadman is raising is that he be on electronic
8 monitoring then all the time. I'm getting that. And I thought
9 that was what he was objecting to because he thought that would
10 make it harder for him to get a job. So --

11 THE COURT: Well, I think he was objecting to it. It
12 was over on his objection that I imposed it.

13 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yeah.

14 THE COURT: I think now what he's saying is, you know,
15 he's -- he's essentially stuck in the house with no ability to
16 do anything other than the delineated exceptions, and so he's
17 asking me to revisit that.

18 MR. ROADMAN: That's correct.

19 MS. MECKLENBURG: And if he has no objection then to
20 full-time electronic monitoring, then that might take the place
21 of home detention.

22 THE COURT: Well, he will have full-time electronic
23 monitoring with GPS. That's already there.

24 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

25 THE COURT: That's 7Q.

1 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

2 MR. ROADMAN: That's right.

3 MS. MECKLENBURG: Then I'm going to just stand on my
4 request for -- on my -- on the Court's original order. I think
5 that it is okay that he doesn't necessarily have to go -- get
6 to go for a run when he feels like it. I don't think that's an
7 overly burdensome restriction.

8 THE COURT: You know what, I'm actually -- I'm going
9 to remove -- I understand everyone's positions. I think
10 Mr. Roadman's argument is a good one. He's going to be on GPS
11 monitoring. He's going to be monitored in realtime all the
12 time in terms of his location. So I'm going to remove the
13 location restriction of home detention.

14 And I guess what I would say, Mr. Chaudhry, is if
15 there is any issue that comes up, if there is any concern
16 that's raised from pretrial, I certainly can put that back in
17 place or I can put even a more onerous restriction in place in
18 terms of confining you to the home 24/7 if that's something
19 that becomes a problem.

20 But right now I hear what Mr. Roadman is saying. You
21 know, you're going to have to live your life. And at this
22 point I don't think there is anything to suggest that -- there
23 is really no evidence that we have in front of us that you pose
24 a serious risk of flight.

25 I understand the government's position with respect to

1 these things. But we have the electronic monitoring here. We
2 have GPS. And it is going to be at the discretion of pretrial
3 services, obviously, with respect to that how that technology
4 is implemented. But that's the condition that's in place,
5 okay?

6 MS. MECKLENBURG: So just to be clear, your Honor,
7 you're ordering P4 and Q4 subject to the technology being at
8 the discretion of pretrial services?

9 THE COURT: Correct.

10 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 MS. MECKLENBURG: Just making sure I had it right.

13 THE COURT: You do. And so that will change -- we'll
14 remove the cross reference from the travel restriction too.

15 MS. MECKLENBURG: Ah, yes.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 MS. MECKLENBURG: And I don't know this, your Honor, I
18 don't know that the GPS, does that work across the Continental
19 United States?

20 THE COURT: Do you -- officer, do you know the range
21 of the GPS?

22 MS. DIAZ: That would be something determined by his
23 officer, your Honor. It is something that we could put in
24 place in the system that's being used to monitor the
25 defendant's movement.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So I guess what I would like to do
2 is with respect to how the technology works and what its limits
3 are, I would ask that defense counsel confer with pretrial
4 services down in the Southern District of Texas and file a
5 brief status report by a week from today that just gives us
6 some information about the range and the technology and how it
7 is used when somebody is able to travel within the Continental
8 United States. If pretrial there is able to keep tabs on where
9 a person is. You know, I -- my guess is that it probably is
10 just a function of whether they are -- somewhere where there is
11 a cell tower.

12 MR. ROADMAN: Right.

13 THE COURT: But I don't know that. And I guess we
14 should know that.

15 And so Ms. Mecklenburg, if what we get back in that
16 report is concerning to you or causes any concern, then we can
17 come back and talk about a modification.

18 MS. MECKLENBURG: That's fine, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Okay. The only other condition that I
20 would like to put in place is I'm going to require a signature
21 bond in the amount of \$50,000. That's the same amount that was
22 imposed, I believe, in the Southern District of Texas.

23 And so Mr. Chaudhry, what that means is that
24 you're -- and I'm sure the judge down in Texas explained this
25 to you too. You're signing your name for a particular dollar

1 amount, \$50,000. You don't have to put up money in order to be
2 released. But what you're signing and you're saying that if
3 you don't comply with the conditions of release, you don't
4 follow the rules, if there are any violations, the government
5 has the ability to come after you for \$50,000.

6 Do you understand that, sir?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay. And that's on top of, if you
9 violate the conditions of release generally, your bond can be
10 revoked.

11 Do you understand that, sir?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Which means that you would be taken into
14 custody.

15 In addition, the penalties that you face in this case
16 could increase if there are issues with your compliance with
17 bond. And noncompliance with bond can also, in certain
18 circumstances, lead to the filing of additional charges.

19 Do you understand all that, sir?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So like the bottom line,
22 Mr. Chaudhry, is this: Folks do much better when they're on
23 bond than they do when they're in jail. It is easier to talk
24 to your lawyers. It is easier to play a meaningful role in
25 your own defense.

1 I know you're a very intelligent person. I am sure it
2 is very clear to you that you're in a much better position than
3 you would be if you were detained. This is an opportunity for
4 you to demonstrate to the Court -- you're presumed innocent,
5 obviously, and that presumption stays with you throughout the
6 case. But you're going to be essentially showing your trial
7 judge, Judge Coleman, that you take this seriously. And it is
8 going to put you in a much better position if you make the most
9 of your time on bond.

10 Okay. Do you understand that, sir?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So I -- the order that I have up
13 here that I have been working off of -- I don't know if you
14 have all been taking notes while I have been doing this -- mine
15 is a mess, so --

16 MS. MECKLENBURG: Okay. We can work one out.

17 MR. ROADMAN: We'll work one out.

18 MS. MECKLENBURG: I have extra copies -- forms.

19 THE COURT: And so why don't we do that and have
20 Mr. Chaudhry sign it. And then I'll sign it and countersign it
21 when we go back on the record.

22 And then the other thing that we'll do at that point
23 is I'll take any motions. I'm sure there will be a motion to
24 exclude time.

25 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes.

1 THE COURT: And I'll give you Judge Coleman's schedule
2 at that point.

3 MS. MECKLENBURG: Can I --

4 THE COURT: Is there anything else that we need to
5 take up today?

6 MR. ROADMAN: The only thing is just a housekeeping
7 matter.

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 MR. ROADMAN: For us, as you know, we filed
10 appearances electronically yesterday.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. ROADMAN: The Northern District of Illinois does
13 not represent -- or does not recognize special and limited
14 appearances. There isn't a form for special or limited.

15 We're appearing today for initial appearance and for
16 the detention hearing. We have not formally entered into a,
17 you know, retainer agreement yet or worked out a retainer
18 arrangement for trial with Mr. Chaudhry. We expect we will do
19 so between now and when we appear in front of Judge Coleman.

20 But if not, we may be -- you know, we may have to
21 revisit that issue. So we just wanted to put that on the
22 record.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Okay. And if that's something that
24 comes to pass, then you can take that up with Judge Coleman in
25 terms of withdrawing and either having new counsel come in or

1 appointment of counsel will be something.

2 Sir, when you first appeared down in Texas, the Judge
3 there made you aware of your rights to a lawyer. And I know
4 you probably received a lot of information on that date, and it
5 was a stressful day. But I'll just emphasize for you sir, you
6 have the right to a lawyer. You have a right to talk to your
7 lawyer at any time. If you can't afford a lawyer at a certain
8 point, the Court will appoint a lawyer to represent you. Okay?

9 So in this district that might mean the Federal
10 Defender Program, which is the public defenders for the federal
11 court. Or if one of those lawyers has a conflict in this
12 matter, or already represents somebody else, then we -- there
13 is what's called a CJA Panel, which is a panel of private
14 lawyers who take appointed cases.

15 And so if you are not able to afford counsel, you will
16 still have a lawyer, and a lawyer will be appointed to
17 represent you.

18 Do you understand that, sir?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. So why don't we take a brief recess
21 to complete the paperwork. Let's say -- is five minutes
22 enough, do you think?

23 MS. MECKLENBURG: I think.

24 MR. ROADMAN: Sure.

25 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yeah.

1 THE COURT: Okay. We'll take five minutes. Thank
2 you.

3 (Brief recess.)

4 THE COURT: Okay. Good afternoon again, everyone.
5 And so we're back on the record here in Mr. Chaudhry's case. I
6 have got the completed conditions, the order setting conditions
7 of release in front of me.

8 Mr. Chaudhry, we just went over these a moment ago.
9 During the break, did you have any questions or concerns that
10 came to mind, sir?

11 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 MR. ROADMAN: Your Honor, the only question we had was
14 7Q4.

15 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes, Q.

16 MR. ROADMAN: Q4 was selected. And what -- with your
17 direction, GPS at the discretion. Q1 says location monitoring
18 at the discretion. We just wanted to make clear we selected
19 the appropriate one you had ordered.

20 THE COURT: Yeah. GPS is what I ordered. So that's
21 correct.

22 MR. ROADMAN: Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Ms. Mecklenburg, the attachment with
24 respect to -- oh, so I see, you noted the list as provided to
25 counsel.

1 MS. MECKLENBURG: Yes.

2 THE COURT: And that's agreeable to counsel?

3 MR. ROADMAN: I'm sorry?

4 THE COURT: The list of folks for indirect and direct
5 contact, that you have that list?

6 MR. ROADMAN: Yes, we have that list.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Is there anything you don't want to
8 include as part of the order.

9 MS. MECKLENBURG: I have never included it as part of
10 an order before until this case, and then it was included. And
11 usually I don't because of the concern that it is going to be
12 accessed by the public, and that's what happened here. So I --
13 if that's what you want me to do, then we will obviously do it.
14 But I do have a concern about --

15 THE COURT: No, I think -- I'll -- I am respectful of
16 your concern. I guess the only issue I want to raise is just
17 in the event there is any question that arises about contact,
18 as long as you folks are all on the same page about who is on
19 that list and which list you're using, then I think you would
20 be able to submit it to me or to Judge Coleman or to whomever
21 to figure out if there is a problem.

22 Is that fair?

23 MS. MECKLENBURG: That's fine for the government, your
24 Honor. I will trust counsel that we're on the same page.

25 MR. ROADMAN: I am (unintelligible).

1 THE COURT: Okay. So Mr. Chaudhry, you haven't signed
2 this one yet. And so these are the conditions of release. I'm
3 going to hand this back to you in one moment. But I'm going to
4 give you two things to sign.

5 And then I also have an appearance bond here, which is
6 signed, which just says that if you -- this is what we talked
7 about with the \$50,000 pledge.

8 Do you understand that, sir?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have any questions about
11 that?

12 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. So I'm signing that. And then I'm
14 going to hand back the order setting conditions of release.
15 I'll sign it now.

16 He needs to sign the order setting conditions of
17 release.

18 (Brief interruption.)

19 THE COURT: Okay. So while that is being done, the
20 schedule from Judge Coleman requires the Rule 16 conference by
21 July 15th.

22 And there is a status hearing in Judge Coleman's
23 courtroom on August 6th at 9:45 A.M. So that is Judge
24 Coleman's schedule.

25 MS. MECKLENBURG: And at this time, the government

1 moves to exclude time until the next court date on August 6th
2 in order to allow for discovery, having the Rule 16 conference,
3 and for discovery.

4 THE COURT: Any objection?

5 MR. ROADMAN: No objection.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So time will be excluded for the
7 reasons stated on the record.

8 Is there anything else to take up today?

9 MS. MECKLENBURG: Not from the government, Your Honor.

10 MR. ROADMAN: No.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Chaudhry, I wish you the best
12 of luck. Okay, sir?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 MS. MECKLENBURG: Thank you, your Honor.

16 MR. ROADMAN: Thank you, Judge.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 (Which concluded the proceedings.)

19 CERTIFICATE

20 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript
21 from the digital recording of proceedings in the above-entitled
22 matter to the best of my ability, given the limitation of using
a digital-recording system.

23 /s/Pamela S. Warren
24 Official Court Reporter - Retired
25 United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois
Eastern Division

August 1, 2025
Date